



# SCDDSN

## Family and Friends

### Newsletter

#### February 2011



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## WELCOME

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I hope you continue to enjoy the Newsletter and that you and your family members are attending the various events that have been offered throughout the state recently. If you have been visiting our website you may have noticed that we continue to make changes in our ongoing effort to make our site easier for you to navigate. We have added a new Audit link, revised our homepage, and are working on updating numerous other links to ensure you have the most current information. I ask that you let us know if you are unable to locate information or may have suggestions on ways you feel we could make our site easier for each of you. Feel free to go to our homepage and follow the link [click here](#) which will take you to a form for any questions or suggestions you may have for our agency or the website. I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to working with you in 2011. Feel free to contact me via email at [Nhall@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:Nhall@ddsn.sc.gov) or by phone at 803-898-9650.

**REMINDER**  
*You can find the 2011 Commission Meeting Schedule by visiting our website, opening the Commission tab on the left side of the screen, and then opening the tab titled schedule.*

### EVENTS OF INTEREST



- \* Pro-Parents is sponsoring The ADHD Basics from A-Z presented by Chris Zeigler Dendy, MS on February 11, 2011 from 9:00am-3:30pm at Glenforest School in West Columbia. For more information go to [www.proparents.org](http://www.proparents.org).
- \* South Carolina Autism Society is having a parents and caregivers Valentines Day at Fun Zone in Irmo, SC on Monday, February 14, 2011 from 5:00pm-8:00pm for children on the PDD waiting list. Space is limited. Call Delilah at 803-750-6988 ext. 108 to pre-register.
- \* The Fourth Annual Respite Conference, sponsored by the South Carolina Respite Coalition, on Thursday, February 17, 2011 from 8:30am-3:15pm at St. Andrews Baptist Church, Columbia, SC. Online registration at [www.screspitecoalition.org](http://www.screspitecoalition.org).

# EVENTS OF INTEREST CONTINUED



- ✳ **Healing Farms Ministries** is planning a Luke 14 Banquet for February 14, 2011 from 5p-8pm at Seacoast Church. Click [Here](#) for more information and to register.
- ✳ **Family Connection of Greenville and presenter Susan Bruce with Pro-Parents of SC**, host event, **The Upstate IEP process**, on February, 17, 2011 from 11:00am-1:30pm at CDS, 29 N. Academy Street, Greenville, SC. Lunch and Learn, bring a bagged lunch. Register by calling 1-800-759-4776 or (803) 772-5688 FREE WORKSHOP / OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
- ✳ **Family Connection** is having a Valentine Social on February 18, 2011 from 6pm-8pm at Concord Baptist Church, Anderson, SC. Please RSVP BY calling 864-231-8100.
- ✳ **North Greenville University** presents Winnie the Pooh, a sensory friendly performance, on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 3:00pm. Cost is FREE. The performance is limited to 200 people. The lights will be up and the sound will be down all to make this performance comfortable for individuals of all ages with special needs and their families. [Click here](#) to reserve your tickets online!
- ✳ **Annual Parents Leading the Way Conference** is scheduled for February 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This is sponsored by Parents Anonymous of South Carolina. This conference will be held at Embassy Suites in Columbia, SC. For more information please contact Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> of South Carolina at 800-326-8621, by email at [info@paofsc.org](mailto:info@paofsc.org), or on the web at [www.paofsc.org](http://www.paofsc.org).
- ✳ **The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cross Cultural Conference** from February 27, 2011 to March 2, 2011 in Myrtle Beach, SC- "Empowering Children and Families to Succeed." Registration materials and information can be found at: <https://www.regonline.com/2011AnnualCrossCulturalConference> or at: <http://www.CrossCulturalActionCouncil.org/>. For further information, please call: 1-866-591-1820.
- ✳ **Disability Advocacy Day at the Statehouse** is Wednesday, March 2, 2011 from 9:00am-2:00pm. Register at the Blatt Building Lobby on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. There will be a Self Advocacy Rally at 11:30am on the south side of the State House Steps.
- ✳ **EdVenture Children's Museum presents EdCeptional Families Nights** on March 5, 2011 from 5:00pm-7:00pm for children with hearing and vision disabilities. No reservations needed. For further information call 803-400-1133 or visit their website at [www.edventure.org](http://www.edventure.org).

- ✳ **South Carolina Assistive Technology Expo** on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 9:00am-4:00pm at the Columbia Conference Center. Free and open to the public and no pre-registration is necessary.
- ✳ **Winston's Wish Foundation Education Series** presents Dr. Timothy Vollmer "An Applied Behavior Analysis of Choice, Implications for Treating Problem Behavior and Enhancing Skill Acquisition" on March 16, 2011 in Columbia, SC. Visit their website for further information regarding this event at: [www.winstonswishfoundation.com](http://www.winstonswishfoundation.com).
- ✳ **The Brain Injury Association of SC** holds its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Thought presented by Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, ICAR, Greenville, SC. For more information on this visit go to: [Register NOW](#) .
- ✳ **The Junior Woman's Club** of Columbia presents the annual benefit for Palmetto Place Children's Emergency Shelter on Thursday March 24, 2011 at 6:00pm in Embassy Suites. Register online at [www.jwccolumbia.org](http://www.jwccolumbia.org) or contact Neel Lesesne at 803-238-7554.
- ✳ **The Southeastern Regional Games** for wheelchair sports are April 14-16, 2011 in North Myrtle Beach. Go to [www.sewsagames.com](http://www.sewsagames.com) to find out more about this event.
- ✳ **2011 Shake Out** is April 28, 2011 at 10:15am to practice how to protect yourself during earthquakes and to get prepared. To register for this event go to: <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/register/>. If you are, or work with, people with disabilities or access and functional needs, the attachment has more specific information for the Shake Out. [http://www.shakeout.org/downloads/DropCoverHoldOn\\_AFN\\_090615.pdf](http://www.shakeout.org/downloads/DropCoverHoldOn_AFN_090615.pdf)
- ✳ **Family Connection's Annual Spring** Benefit and Auction is Thursday, April 28, 2011 at Saluda River Club. For further information visit their website at: [www.familyconnectionsc.org](http://www.familyconnectionsc.org).



# DID YOU KNOW



- ♥ There is a new non-profit group that serves persons with mobility impairments in Horry County? The group is **Sports Mobility Network**. You can visit the website by going to [www.sportsmobilitynetwork.org](http://www.sportsmobilitynetwork.org).
- ♥ Have you heard about **Upstate Challenger Sports** in Greenville, SC? In 2006, Upstate Challenger Sports was formed. Upstate Challenger Sports is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that provides recreational opportunities for individuals with mental, physical or developmental disabilities ages 5 and up. With assistance from volunteer “buddies”, players are able to participate in activities that promote teamwork, develop self-esteem and allow individuals to be more like their peers. Participants are from all over the Upstate including Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Oconee and Pickens counties. Visit their website at: [www.upstatechallengersports.org](http://www.upstatechallengersports.org).
- ♥ It is almost time for **Strides for Autism!** The events will be held as follows: Upstate-April 9, 2011; Midlands-May 21, 2011; Lowcountry-September 10, 2011; and Grand Strand-October 8, 2011. The Strides for Autism link for secure registration is: <https://scautism.org/strides/> or visit the SC Autism Society’s new website at: <http://www.scautism.org>.
- ♥ The **SC Assistive Technology Exchange** has numerous items available that you may find of interest. Visit their website at: [www.scatapexchange.net](http://www.scatapexchange.net).
- ♥ Have you visited the **South Carolina Disability Resource Library?** The library is a collaborative effort between BabyNet/South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Center for Disability Resources, the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library. The CDR Library consists of books, videos, brochures,

and audiotapes covering a variety of disability-related topics. The Center for Disability Resources Library is located within the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library on Garners Ferry Road. The library contains information for families, consumers, and staff members. View the catalog at: [http://muscls.musc.edu/screens/opacmenu\\_s5.html](http://muscls.musc.edu/screens/opacmenu_s5.html) or contact: Steve Wilson, Coordinator, CDR Library, via phone at: 803-733-1501, email: [steve.wilson@usmed.sc.edu](mailto:steve.wilson@usmed.sc.edu) or Web site: <http://uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR>.

♥ Have you heard of **EARNworks**? Private sector employers and state and local government agencies can request a search of our pool of over 2,500 pre-screened candidates for internships and permanent positions. The Employer Assistance & Resource Network (EARN) provides employers with free consulting services and resources to support the recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities. EARN assists employers in understanding the practical business reasons for, as well as the practices that facilitate the recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities. EARN also offers assistance to employment service providers and jobseekers with disabilities. EARN is an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Visit their website at: <http://www.earnworks.com/wrp/internship.asp>.

♥ **The College Transition Connection, Inc.** congratulates the College of Charleston REACH program on their being awarded a grant from the United States Department of Education in the amount of 2.3 million dollars, which will help to fund and grow their program. Visit [www.collegetransitionconnection.org](http://www.collegetransitionconnection.org).

♥ Have you heard of **YMCA Camp Greenville**? They are planning for their 2011 camps. They have a Spectrum Camp for individuals on the autism spectrum. They provide a traditional camp experience for the whole family in a supportive and safe environment. This camp is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Contact Taylor at [tfay@ymcagreenville.org](mailto:tfay@ymcagreenville.org) or by phone at 864-836-3291.

♥ **The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation** offers information for people with physical disabilities. Visit their website at: [ChristopherReeve.org](http://ChristopherReeve.org).

♥ Have you heard of **Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)**. This self advocacy organization was founded in 1990. The non-profit organization is run by a board of self advocates, representing nine regions of the country. They have been working hard for the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the community through the 50 states and the world for 20 years. Visit their website for further information at: [www.sabeusa.org](http://www.sabeusa.org).

♥ Have you heard of the **South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council**? It is a governmental organization whose primary purpose is to advocate for persons with

developmental disabilities through systems change. The council, established by Executive Order of the governor in 1971, seeks to increase public and legislative awareness in order to more effectively carry out this advocacy role. Visit their website at: <http://www.scddc.state.sc.us/>.

♥ The **TARGET Center**, under the US Department of Agriculture, provides a Discovery Series that presents a lot of good information about assistive technology and electronic information accessibility. Visit their blog at: <http://blogs.usda.gov/tag/target-center/> to see a video series where individuals with disabilities will share brief stories about how technology has impacted their career.

♥ The **YMCA in Florence, SC** has funds available to help cover the cost of Adapted Aquatics Parent/Child Classes. These classes are for children with special needs ages six months to four years along with a parent or caregiver. Contact Cindy Averitt, Senior Director - Programs and Communications, at 843-665-1234 or visit their website at: [www.florenceymca.org](http://www.florenceymca.org).

♥ Have you heard of the **Teaching Toy Box?** While we are all familiar with the high cost of effective, evidence-based treatment for autism, many of us remain unaware of the hidden costs of Applied Behavior Analysis - materials needed to administer the programs. By accessing items through the Teaching Toy Box, Behavior Analysts will be able to assist families by providing the necessary tools to ensure the best outcomes for their children in therapy. Availability of every day toys and autism specific learning materials can have a significant impact on the depth, speed and quality of a home-based Applied Behavior Analysis (or ABA) program. Items like a dress-up costume can be used not only to teach a child with autism about occupations, but it can also be used to teach language through peer interaction and pretend play, sequencing, and identification. While simple games like Candy Land might be a fun family night pick for most of us, for children with Autism it can become a motivating and engaging way to master colors, counting, matching skills, turn taking, and receptive language. Even a simple wooden block sets can be used to teach matching, sequencing and imitation by replicating block design. All of these toys and others are fantastic for teaching leisure play skills, something that many of our children have difficulty learning and generalizing. Teaching Toy Box is a collaborative community outreach effort between Winston's Wish Foundation, the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and USC School of Medicine Center for Disability Resources, and is available to children with autism residing in South Carolina who are receiving ABA services in a home-based program. Here, parents and professionals will find the materials they need in order to more effectively treat children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. For further information and how you can help visit: <http://winstonswishfoundation.com/home.php>.



South Carolina  
Assistive Technology  
Expo 2011

Tuesday, March 15, 2011  
9 am - 4 pm  
Columbia Conference Center  
169 Laurelhurst Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29210

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Exhibits and Workshops Showcasing Assistive  
Technology for People of All Ages

**NEW THIS YEAR! HUBSCRUB EVENT at the  
Disability Action Center near the Expo!** Bring your non-electronic  
equipment to be cleaned and sanitized, free of charge!

Find updated Expo information, including information about the Hubscrub event,  
at [www.sc.edu/scatp/expo/expo11.html](http://www.sc.edu/scatp/expo/expo11.html)  
For special accommodations, contact SCATP at [lydia.durham@uscmed.sc.edu](mailto:lydia.durham@uscmed.sc.edu) or call  
1-800-915-4522 or 803-935-5263 by March 1, 2011

Sponsored by South Carolina Assistive Technology Program, USC School of Medicine Center for Disability Resources, SC Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (Division of State Information Technology), SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Disability Action Center, SC Association for Educational Technology, and Mid-Carolina Area Health Education Consortium

# ORDER OF THE PALMETTO



Congratulations to Dr. James O. Morphis Jr. of Hartsville, SC. He was honored with the Order of the Palmetto, which is the highest civilian honor for service in South Carolina. Dr. Morphis has been a pediatrician in Hartsville, South Carolina for more than forty years and during most of that time he has been taking care of residents at the Thad E. Saleeby Center in Hartsville under the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. Thank you to Dr. Morphis for all of his years of service caring for the people served by our Agency.

# WAY TO GO



Mr. Joseph Grayson, who receives residential services through the Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, is seen here riding his bike in the Georgetown Christmas Parade. He purchased all of the equipment and a storage shed for his lawn service business with his savings. He loves to decorate his bike and trailer each Christmas. Ms. Elizabeth Krauss, Executive Director of the Georgetown DSN Board, and her staff are very proud to be able to serve Mr. Grayson and are proud of his accomplishments. Way to go Joseph!!

## The Workforce Inclusive

## AbilityOne Program Success Story

# Smith Finds Independence in AbilityOne

By Heather Loveridge, contributing feature writer

For Mavis Smith, the AbilityOne Program is much more than a way to earn an income. It's allowed her to overcome obstacles presented by her intellectual disability and significant hearing impairment, make new friends and live independently.

Before she began working at the Army Reserve Center in Aiken, S.C. through a contract with Aiken's Tri-Development Center, Smith had lived at a state institution for people with cognitive disabilities. She was there for a short time in the '70s before discharging herself and getting married. The relationship was very abusive and Smith turned to the Tri-Development Center, where she received the help she needed.

In 1992, Smith began working on TDC's Army Reserve contract as a janitor. Today, she's still there and is responsible for cleaning bathrooms, dusting, replenishing supplies and maintaining quality control.

Over the last 18 years, Smith has overcome any obstacles in her way and mastered the aggressive training required to work at the center.

"When I first met her, I noticed she liked to please others but was very sensitive to criticism. She also appeared to have a severe fear of rejection by her work supervisor and was jealous of attention given to others," said TDC's Robert Knight. "But she didn't let that stop her and has learned to overcome her fear, deal with conflict and develop her interpersonal skills."

According to Ralph Courtney, executive director of TDC, Smith now seeks guidance from others



when making important decisions rather than acting impulsively. She has her own apartment and receives residential support and assistance with transportation from agency staff.

On the job, Smith has earned the title of quality control inspector.

"Mavis knows procedures. She's very reliable and displays excellent customer service skills. She's very pleasant around the Army officers at the work site and has an excellent rapport with them," Knight said. "As a result of Mavis' initiative and others' attention to the delivery of exceptional customer service, TDC is the recipient of nine certificates of achievement awards for outstanding performance."

Along with her employer, those at the center have also been very pleased with Smith.

"Mavis has exceptional strengths in many areas. Her housekeeping skills are the best I have seen in many years," said SPC Mark Maxwell, facility manager and physical security officer at the center. "She is also very dependable in doing all tasks that she is assigned, and she has an outstanding work ethic and is wonderful to be around."

For Smith, working and being able to provide for herself is not something she takes for granted. As she puts it, it means happiness.

"Living in my own apartment, working for my money, paying my bills, saving my money and having money to go places and buy stuff for other people – this is what my job means to me," Smith said.

"I enjoy working with [my supervisors] Pat and Ronnie and the other clients and keeping the offices clean for the soldiers. The people at the Army Reserve Center are very nice to me."

When she's not working, Smith maintains an active life. She enjoys exploring thrift shops, yard sales and flea markets and sharing her finds with others. She also loves visiting with her friends and celebrating birthdays and holidays. In addition, she keeps in touch with her son, Leon, who is a very important part of her life.

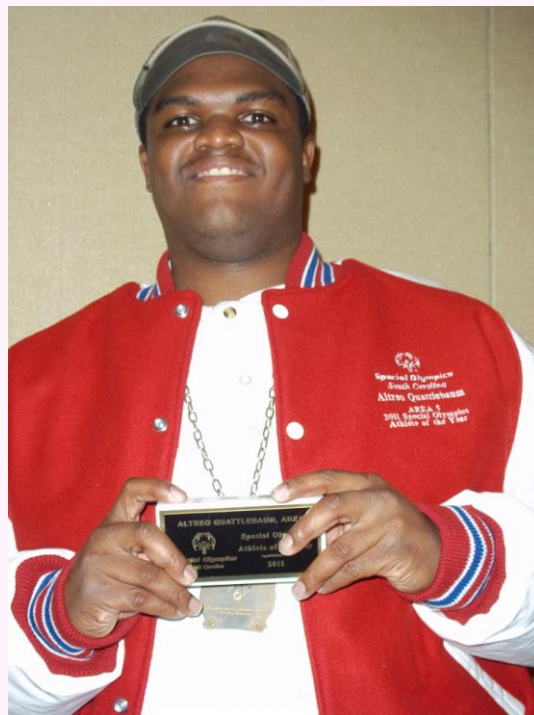
"I strongly believe that Mavis is an asset to Tri-Development and also a great mentor for other disabled individuals," Maxwell said. "The AbilityOne Program is an outstanding program; everyone involved should be commended for their outstanding support of those with significant disabilities."

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

Altreo Quattlebaum, a resident of Whitten Center in Clinton, has received the Special Olympics South Carolina Susan T. DeMasi Athlete of the Year award. The award is given to the athlete who epitomizes the spirit of a true winner by his willingness to help others and give his best while displaying outstanding courage and sportsmanship. The Athlete of the Year is presented a letter jacket in honor of DeMasi, a former SOSC athlete, and a plaque. The presentation was made at the annual Special Olympics Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach on January 22.

Altreo does not let his hearing impairment affect his athletic performance. He is very active in several sports, and understands the rules of each. He takes training very seriously. His coach, Tony Benson, says, "Altreo practices until he gets it right." The hard work paid off at the National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska in July 2010 when he won three gold medals. He competes in track and field, bowling, and bocce. He also helps to coach his fellow athletes through visual and hands-on teaching. He is a true sportsman who values teamwork and is an excellent leader and role model for others.

This marks the first time that an athlete from Area 5 has won this award. SOSC area 5 is comprised of Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, and Newberry counties.



\*\*\* Please note that the next Commission Meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011 at 10:30am at DDSN Central Office in Room 251. Videoconferencing is available at Coastal Center, Pee Dee Center, Whitten Center, and the York DSN Board\*\*\*

